

Completion of KOT and Starting Endline Survey

Kick-off Training (KOT) was held in Muchinga and Luapula provinces in April. This means that all six target provinces have completed KOT. From now on, the trained officers will transfer the technology to the farmers and the progress will be confirmed in the Mid-term Training (MTT). This month has also been the start of the end-line survey. The provincial CPU members are conducting the survey in collaboration with the district officers and extension officers.

Implementation of KOT

1) Luapula Province

KOT was held in Luapula Province from 11 to 14 April (four days). After the completion of E-COBSI, the District Officers should become trainers of their colleagues and CEOs, teaching specific subjects such as irrigation, crop cultivation, nutrition improvement, etc. As far as possible, the District Officers should teach each module of this KOT. The officers also take the time and collect the contributions. This leads to capacity development of the district officers.



Mr. Humphrey Mbao, TSB in Kawambwa district is teaching Canal Alignment. (Luapula Province)

During KOT in the follow-up provinces, each district gives a presentation on the progress made since the Market Survey Training (MST) and the entry plan up to the MTT. After the presentation, participants commented and discussed. Most of the comments were made by the provincial CPU. This means that the capacity of the district officers to objectively and critically analyse the reports is not yet mature. It is therefore necessary to strengthen it.

During the practical training on organic fertilizers, organic pesticides, etc., the district officers took the initiative to calculate production costs. The purpose of introducing these technologies is to provide a means of dealing with the escalating prices of agricultural inputs. It was confirmed that the district and extension officers who attended the training were aware of this intention.



Mr. Ronald Njapao, principal officer at farm institute demonstrated how to make *Bokashi*. Then, the district and the extension officers calculated the production cost based on the recipe. (Luapula Province)

As in other provinces, we introduced Grevenco, a private company that promotes organic chilli farming. The district and extension officers were keen to write down their contact details. It is expected that some will contact the company in the future to collect and disseminate information. In addition, when the wheat cultivation method was introduced, many participants expressed a desire to promote the wheat cultivation method because of the increasing market demand and price.

2) Muchinga Province

KOT in Muchinga Province was conducted from 3 to 6 April. Although the district officers explained adequately in most of the presentations, some explanations were inadequate and additional explanations were added by the provincial officers. As the capacity of district officers is not uniform, it is recommended that provincial CPU officers take sufficient time to explain to district officers.

District officers facilitate the module for presenting progress since MST and the entry plan to MTT. However, as same as other provinces there was room for improvement. As it takes experience to improve it, the district officers will do it again at MTT.

Endline Survey for the overall activities of E-COBSI

As this is the final year of the project, the end-line survey will be conducted among beneficiaries in the district model sites. The provincial CPU members will conduct the survey together with the district and extension officers. The questionnaire consists of two parts. Part 1 is on site common information collected through group interviews. Part 2 is about individual farmer information collected through individual interviews. The finalisation of the questionnaire, explanation of the meaning of each question and the schedule were done based on the discussion among the CPU members. The survey is expected to be completed in May. After that, the provincial CPU will input the data.

Nutrition Training inviting all the district officers in Northern Province by the GRZ budget


The Senior Food and Nutrition Officer (SFNO) in Northern Province conducted the nutrition improvement training for all district nutrition officers in the province. The necessary costs were covered by

the Government of Zambia's budget, with a view to sustainability. CPU members tried to keep costs down by choosing an inexpensive conference room in the Fisheries Department. The content was about the nutrition improvement programme implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, E-COBSI activities including *Tebakari-Eiyoughou*, and other nutrition improvement activities implemented by other donors. *Tebakari-Eiyoughou* was explained through a cooking demonstration using locally available food. It is expected that the E-COBSI training content will be further utilised by the Government of Zambia through its own budget.



Ms. Vivian Mwansa, SFNO in Northern Province held the training inviting the nutrition officers in all the districts. (Northern Province)

Progress of Permanent weir construction as of the end of April

	Progress of construction	Discussion with farmers' group
Kasempa district in North Western Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of the weir part is suspended due to heavy rain Construction of the slope protection has not been started yet The new canal is under construction →Ready for irrigation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 members out of 50 members are active participants in the construction Focusing on irrigating left canal 
Mufulira district in Copperbelt Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of the weir was finished Construction of the slope protection is almost finished 150m of radius around the weir is muddy which makes it challenging to bring materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resume collection of stones for making concrete Continue the construction two days per week. If the work is too much, increase the working days to four days per week.
Mkushi district in Central Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of the weir was finished Construction of the slope protection for the left canal is almost finished. Site clearance, including weeding, was conducted for the construction. However, it is difficult to drive into the site because of the high underground water level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting was held with the participation of the leaders of the area. Then, it is concluded to involve beneficiaries who take the water from the permanent weir. Collection of sand will be resumed after the groundwater level became low.